

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus which reads a document and outputs the document to a printing device or external device, comprising:

5 read means for reading an image on the document;  
authentication means for authenticating whether a user can utilize an original image of the document when the image read by said read means contains image storage information representing a location where the  
10 original image of the document is stored;

search means for searching an image storage device which stores the original image of the document on the basis of the image storage information when the user is authenticated by said authentication means; and

15 output means for outputting the original image of the document formed by search by said search means to the printing device or external device.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image storage information includes information  
20 represented by a barcode.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image storage device includes a server device connected via a network.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when  
25 the original image of the document is output to the external device via a network, said output means attaches the original image to E-mail, and outputs the

E-mail with the original image.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for causing the printing device to print the image storage information, and causing the  
5 image storage device to store the original image of the document.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the image read by said read means is output, said output means does not perform authentication by said  
10 authentication means.

7. A processing method for an image processing apparatus which reads a document and outputs the document to a printing device or external device, comprising:

15 a read step of reading an image on the document;  
an authentication step of authenticating whether a user can utilize an original image of the document when the image read in the read step contains image storage information representing a location where the  
20 original image of the document is stored;

a search step of searching an image storage device which stores the original image of the document on the basis of the image storage information when the user is authenticated in the authentication step; and

25 an output step of outputting the original image of the document searched in the search step to the printing device or external device.

8. A program which causes a computer to function as each means of an image processing apparatus defined in claim 1.

9. A computer-readable recording medium which  
5 records a program defined in claim 8.